

MEMORANDUM TO THE FILE

Re: Triethylene Glycol

No direct food uses of triethylene glycol have been identified. It is not the subject of FDA GRAS or food additive regulations for direct food use, and its use in foods was not reported in the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council (NAS/NRC) 1972 survey of industry use of GRAS substances in foods or in the 1977 NAS/NRC food additive survey.

Triethylene glycol is cleared for various uses in packaging materials, adhesives, and coatings, and as an adjuvant for pesticide chemicals. Some uses are subject to the restriction that the diethylene glycol content of the ingredient not exceed 0.1 percent.

The Condensed Chemical Dictionary (Eighth Ed.) describes the uses of triethylene glycol as follows:

"Solvent for nitrocellulose, various gums and resins; lacquers; organic synthesis; air-conditioning units; bactericide (in vapor form); humectant in printing inks; textile conditioner; fungicide."

The Dictionary also describes triethylene glycol as being of "low toxicity."

No reference to the substance was found in the three annual plans of the National Toxicology Program.

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